

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A solid polymer electrolyte membrane with ion exchangeability employed in a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell, wherein an anion group is ~~partially combined with a~~ the solid polymer membrane over a part of the surface of said membrane, which part is less than an entire surface of said membrane.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane with ion exchangeability employed in a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell, comprising a step of ~~partially~~ combining an anion group with ~~a the solid polymer electrolyte~~ membrane over a part of the surface of said membrane, which part is less than an entire surface of said membrane.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane comprising the steps of:

- covering a ~~predetermined~~ portion on a surface of a polymer substrate with a first mask to shield the ~~predetermined~~ portion;
- applying radiation to an entirety of the polymer substrate;
- grafting a styrene onto a polymer in a remaining portion in the polymer substrate not covered by the first mask;
- removing the first mask from the polymer substrate; and
- combining an anion group with the styrene on the polymer in the grafted remaining portion of the polymer substrate.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane comprising the steps of:

- applying radiation to a surface of a polymer substrate;
- covering a ~~predetermined~~ portion in the radiated surface of the polymer substrate with a mask to shield the ~~predetermined~~ portion;
- grafting a styrene onto a polymer in a remaining portion of the polymer substrate not covered with the mask; and
- combining an anion group with the styrene on the polymer in the grafted remaining portion of the polymer substrate.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane comprising the steps of:

- applying radiation to a surface of a polymer substrate;
- covering a ~~predetermined~~ portion of the radiated surface of the polymer substrate with a mask for shielding the ~~predetermined~~ portion;
- grafting a styrene onto a polymer in a remaining portion in the polymer substrate not covered with the mask;
- removing the mask from the polymer substrate; and
- combining an anion group with the styrene on the polymer of a surface portion of the ~~predetermined~~ portion in the thickness direction thereof.

Claim 6 (Original): The method for producing the solid polymer electrolyte membrane in accordance with claim 1, wherein the anion group includes a sulfonic acid group.

Claim 7 (Original): The method for producing the solid polymer electrolyte membrane in accordance with claim 2, wherein the anion group includes a sulfonic acid group.

Claim 8 (Original): The method for producing the solid polymer electrolyte membrane in accordance with claim 3, wherein the anion group includes a sulfonic acid group.

Claim 9 (Original): The method for producing the solid polymer electrolyte membrane in accordance with claim 4, wherein the anion group includes a sulfonic acid group.

Claim 10 (Original): The method for producing the solid polymer electrolyte membrane in accordance with claim 5, wherein the anion group includes a sulfonic acid group.

Claim 11 (New): The solid polymer electrolyte membrane with ion exchangeability employed in a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 1, wherein said solid polymer electrolyte membrane includes sulfonated regions and non-sulfonated regions.

Claim 12 (New): The method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane with ion exchangeability employed in a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 2, wherein said solid polymer electrolyte membrane includes sulfonated regions and non-sulfonated regions.

Claim 13 (New): The method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane with ion exchangeability employed in a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 3, wherein the first mask includes lead.

Claim 14 (New): The method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane with ion exchangeability employed in a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 4, wherein the mask is formed with polytetrafluoroethylene.

Claim 15 (New): The method for producing a solid polymer electrolyte membrane with ion exchangeability employed in a solid polymer electrolyte fuel cell in accordance with claim 5, wherein the mask is formed with polytetrafluoroethylene.